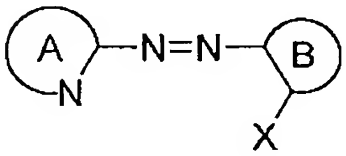
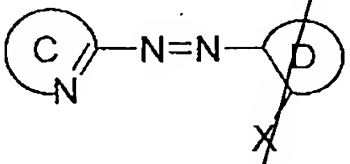
[Claims]

1. An optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a laser-writable and/or readable recording layer provided thereon, wherein said recording layer contains a chelate dye comprising two or more azo compounds having different structures and a divalent or more metal ion, and said azo compounds are respectively selected from azo compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and the following general formula (II):



(I)

wherein ring A represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring B represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen;



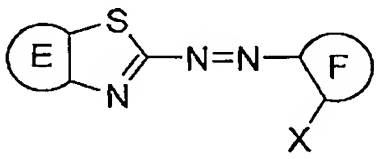
(II)

wherein ring C represents an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring D represents an

aromatic hydrocarbon ring, an aromatic heterocyclic ring, or a condensed ring of one of these rings with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have substituent(s) other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

2. The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein two or more azo compounds contained in one molecule of the chelate dye are different from each other at least in either one of the ring structure of ring A or ring C, and the ring structure of ring B or ring D.

3. The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein two or more azo compounds contained in one molecule of the chelate dye are represented by the following general formula (III):



(III)

wherein ring E represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring which may have substituent(s), or an aromatic heterocyclic ring which may have substituent(s); ring F represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, or a condensed ring of an aromatic hydrocarbon ring with saturated ring(s), and these rings each may have a substituent other than X; and X represents a group having an active hydrogen.

4. An optical recording medium which comprises a plurality of chelate dyes as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3.

5. The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said chelate dye accounts for 5 mol% or more of the total amount of the dyes contained in the recording layer.

6. The optical recording medium as claimed in claim 5, wherein said chelate dye accounts for 5 to 9 mol% of the total amount of the dyes contained in the recording layer.

7. The optical recording medium as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the residual moiety except said chelate dye of all the dyes contained in the recording layer comprises chelate dyes having, as the ligands, azo compounds of the same structure alone selected from the azo compounds represented by the general formula (I) or the general formula (II).